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KX-405

May 1961

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: OSTROVERSK, Rafailav

FILE IN C

1. In a report dated 12 July 1948 received by an official British Service from an unvaluated source, Subject was identified as a former leader in the Union of Byelo-Russians in Poland. It was stated that this organization, which had begun as a national union, had been entirely penetrated by Byelo-Communists. It was disbanded by Polish authorities, and Subject was proven to be in the service of the Comintern. Later, Subject was recruited as a source by Polish authorities.

2. The following unvaluated information was obtained from a report dated August 1949, which may have been prepared by one of Subject's political opponents:

a. In 1944, pro-Communist Byelorussian circles in Poland acquired the services of Subject, who was described as a German collaborator. From 1944 to 1947, Subject was an active Byelorussian politician in Poland, and he associated with pro-Soviet elements. He was eventually transferred to Lodz, Poland, and at the time of the report, he was appointed chairman of the Central Byelorussian Council in Lodz. This appointment was reportedly made by the Germans.

b. Another unvaluated report dated July-August 1949 stated that from 1944 to 1947 Subject was active with pro-Soviet groups in Poland. In 1936, he was relieved as the director of a high school in Wilno, Poland, for financial misconduct. From 1943 to 1945, Subject collaborated with the Germans and was made chairman of the Central Byelorussian Council during this period. In 1945, the council was dissolved, but it was started again in March 1946 without legal foundation.

c. In a report dated 8 February 1951 submitted by a predecessor organization of the present West German Intelligence Service from a source of undetermined reliability, it was stated that the White Russian Central Rada which was under Subject's leadership was penetrated by Soviet agents.

d. The following information concerning the Byelorussian Liberation Movement was contained in a report dated 19 July 1952 from one of Subject's political opponents:

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- a. According to source, the undertaking could not be called a movement, since no new ideas or conceptions had entered into its founding. He stated that it could more properly be called a "diversion" which Subject was using to try and break up the ranks of the BVR (Belarusian National Council). It was stated that since Subject was a master of intrigue, he had had some success with his diversion activities in the past five years.
- b. It was mentioned that the stagnation tendency, noted in all emigrant groups, was more pronounced among the Belarusians since they were the poorest materially. Actions of the group, such as issuing of proclamations, organization of military units, and opening of officer schools, were conducted openly around a Lieutenant Colonel Interior ZAHARENKI.
- c. A conference of former Belarusian servicemen was held on 9 March 1932 in Manchester, England. The summons to the meeting had been signed by ZAHARENKI, who, with the aid of some friends, managed to use up most of the conference allotted time. ZAHARENKI told the gathering that he was working with the English staff and counter-intelligence, and that they had provided him every assistance. He then invited all those present to join the ranks of the military organization under the name of the BVR (Belarusian Liberation Movement). At the close of the meeting, ZAHARENKI stated that the organization would be politically subordinate to the Belarusian Central Council, which was headed by Subject. Source stated that ZAHARENKI's real name was Lyubovik GOLUBOVICH, and that he had come from Soviet Belorussia. ZAHARENKI had studied law, and at one time he had been an officer and judge for the NKVD (Russian Commissariat for Internal Affairs). He collaborated with the German S.S. during World War II.
- d. On 25 March 1932, Subject issued a decree making ZAHARENKI a Lieutenant Colonel, and creating other subordinate officer positions. A few days later, the BVR staff was organized with ZAHARENKI as chief of staff. Eight BVR groups were organized in England, and source stated that a marked characteristic of the groups was the practice of using secret informants to spy on one another.

e. In a report dated 28 October 1932 submitted by a predecessor organization of the present West German Intelligence Service from a source of undetermined reliability, it was stated that Subject may have been working with British Intelligence.

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Source stated that Subject had been a Communist officer, and that he had fought in the ranks of the Hungarian Army during the Russian Civil War. Source stated that there was not the slightest doubt about Subject's anti-Soviet attitude.

7. In a report dated 6 October 1939, Subject gave the following information concerning his past activities:

a. Subject was born on 2 October 1887 in the Barabanki village, Elnok village, Munk province, Russia. He completed his courses at the Elnok high school in 1908 and became active in the struggle against autonomy which was opposing the present masses of Balasskuta during this period. Subject stated that he quickly rose from the ranks and became president of the Balasskutan Socialist Gymnasium for the Elnok district. In 1908, he entered the physics-mathematics faculty of the Peterburg University, and in September he was selected by the president of the Elnok association of competitors to join the president of the association of competitors at the university. In 1911, he was arrested for participation in underground work. Upon leaving prison, he was deported under police surveillance to the city of Perekop in the Grodnenskaya Province, Belorussia, USSR.

b. In August 1917, he was a delegate from the Munk province, Russia, to the Moscow State conference, which had been organized by LENIN, the Russian government's prime minister. In February 1918, much of Belorussia was under German occupation, but in December the Germans were forced to retreat from Elnok. When the Bolsheviks moved into the area, they began settling scores with people who had opposed them, and so Subject fell into this category; he decided to go south. Late in December 1918, he arrived in Mordovsk, Grodnenskaya Province, USSR, and enlisted in the local volunteer army. In May 1919, Subject was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and he was attached to division headquarters as an intelligence officer. The army retreated westward in December, and Subject was permitted to go on leave. He joined his family in Polish occupied Elnok. While still in Elnok, he contacted former Belorussian revolutionaries, and they decided to take up arms against the Bolsheviks. Subject was commissioned to go in contact with forces already fighting the Red troops in the West. A force of 10,000 was organized, but it was soon defeated and the insurgents were forced to go underground.

c. In November 1923, Subject was made director of the Belorussian Gymnasium in Vilna, Poland. During this period, the Belorussians had representatives in the Polish Diet and Senate. These representatives composed the so-called Belorussian Senate.

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Anderson's club. The organization broke up in 1935 with the leftist socialist element withdrawing and reorganizing under the name of the Belorussian Peasant and Workers' Groups. According to Subject, the Groups was very successful among the Belorussian masses, and it soon acquired a sizeable membership. The Communist party asked the Groups to join ranks with them, but the Groups refused. The Belorussian Groups was subsequently attacked from two sides. The Poles accused them of being Communists, and the Belsherins gave the Poles every possible assistance in their persecution. On 24 January 1937, the entire central committee, and many of the members of the Belorussian Peasant and Workers' Groups, were arrested. Some were condemned but others, including Subject, were released.

d. Subject was in Lodz, Poland, at the beginning of the war between Germany and Poland in 1939. The Red Army's mistreatment of Western Belorussians, during their occupation of the area in 1939, soon led to a mass flight of the populace to German occupied areas of Poland. At the end of September, Subject undertook the organization of a Belorussian Committee in the German area. Subject was successful, and similar Belorussian committees were organized in Posen and Danzig, Poland. As a result of Subject's urging, a central committee was organized in Berlin, Germany.

e. In July 1943, the Germans sent Subject into the Belorussian territory under their control to organize a local self-government. He organized District Administrations in Minsk, Bialystok, and Bryansk, Russia.

f. In December 1943, the Germans approved the formation of the BTR (Belorussian Central Body), with Subject as its president. A public meeting of the BTR took place on 22 January 1944 in Minsk. It was attended by the Germans, the clergy, and the civilian population. Subject made his council declaration, and he took over such departments as public education, local self-government, the courts, etc., from the Germans. In addition, he suggested that an armed force be organized, and that it be supplied weapons by the Germans. Subject issued an order for the mobilization of the Belorussian BTR (district) defenses. Party battalions were organized, and they were sent to the areas most threatened by the Red perils. Volunteers continued to join the Belorussian BTR defenses, until there were not enough arms to supply them.

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g. In June 1944, a second Balsermann Congress was held in Munich. Once again Subject was elected President of the RM. However, the following day the Bolshewik army forced the Germans to begin evacuating the area, and Subject was obliged to take refuge in Berlin, Germany. The RM battalions retreated and were reorganized into the 1st Balsermann Division under the command of an individual from the German S.S. headquarters. Subject stated that as the German situation was growing worse every day he ordered a meeting of the officers of the 1st Balsermann division. Subject ordered those officers to establish contact with the Allied armies. He stated that the RM division occupied a mine mine crossing for the Allies and that for this service the division was "taken prisoner" by the Americans, and those who did not escape were later turned over to the Bolshewiks.

h. In 1946, a delegation contacted Subject, who was in the English zone of Germany, and requested that he reorganize the RM. In May, the RM was reorganized and a plenary session was held in Hunsingen, Germany. [Subject's account of his past activities forms a vast record of which the above is a summary.]

9. In a report dated 22 October 1955 from a usually reliable source, it was stated that Subject collaborated with the Nazis and that it was under their auspices that he established the Balsermann Central Body. In July 1950, he was in London, England, at which time he helped organize the RM in collaboration with Ludwig GOELSDORF, aka Ia. Col. L. A. SAKENIK. Source stated that GOELSDORF was chief of staff of the Balsermann Liberation Movement. In 1953, and that he was a former presser in the KVP. Source mentioned that GOELSDORF claimed to be a Balsermann patriot but had in reality "gone over to the Russians." Source stated that GOELSDORF and Subject had worked closely together in the Balsermann Liberation Movement, but that they had split because GOELSDORF allegedly claimed importance equal to that of Subject. In 1950, Subject left London and went to Argentina, where he remained until 1952. In July 1952, he returned to West Germany.

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